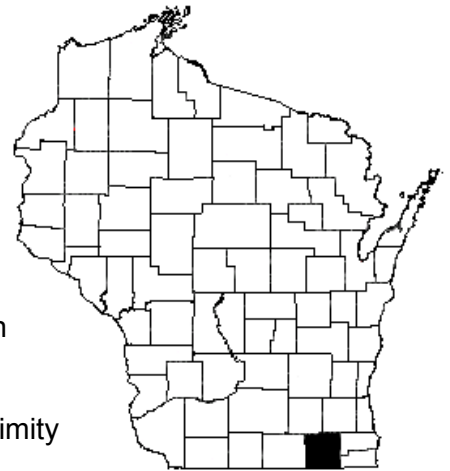




# Fish and Wildlife Conservation

How Fish and Wildlife Dollars Are Used in Your Backyard

## Walworth County



### ***County characteristics***

- 578 sq. miles.
- Northwestern and southeastern portions are rolling forest and kettle potholes with interspersed fields; the remainder is former prairie/oak savanna that is now farmland with scattered woodlots and wetlands.
- 13,700 acres of water consisting of 37 lakes, two of which are more than 2,000 acres in size; 23 warm-water streams and 14 miles of trout streams.
- Experiencing rapid residential and recreational growth due to close proximity to Milwaukee and Chicago areas
- 96 percent of County is private land.
- There are 97,052 residents, with 15,322 and 7,730 licensed fishing and hunting residents



### ***State Land Open to Hunting and Fishing***

- 13,475 acres of state land including wildlife and fisheries areas, state natural areas, and Kettle Moraine State Forest-Southern Unit (KMSU).
- 12,800 acres open to hunting.

Locate DNR properties at:

[http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr\\_land\\_mapping.html](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/dnr_land_mapping.html)

### ***Fish and Wildlife Staff serving you***

- 1 Wildlife Manager; 2 Wildlife Technicians, 1 Fisheries Manager; 1 Fisheries Technician; 2 Conservation Wardens
- Staff also serves Racine, Kenosha and Waukesha Counties and the KMSU portion of Jefferson CO.

### ***Activities Funded by Your Hunting and Fishing Dollars***

- Establish and maintain grassland and wetland habitat through management activities such as wetland draw downs, annual prescribed burning of over 500 acres; native plantings on wildlife and natural areas, KMSU and private lands in partnership with federal and nonprofit conservation organizations.
- Turtle Valley Wildlife Area was established in 2000. Through land acquisition and partnerships with conservation groups, more than 2,300 acres of wetlands and grasslands have been restored with a goal of 5,500 acres.
- Improve habitat along 1536 feet of Bluff and Whitewater Creeks to improve cover and feeding habitat for wild brown trout.
- Manage DNR lands by posting public hunting and access sites; construction and maintenance of parking areas.
- Manage wildlife populations through surveys, harvest regulation, banding, stocking; surveying of ducks, geese, pheasants, grouse, woodcock, deer, and grassland birds.



*Activities continued...*

- In 2004, Conservation Wardens investigated 203 complaints and issued 171 citations, including the apprehension of two unlicensed nonresident hunters shining wildlife with an uncased rifle in their truck along with 73 dead raccoons.
- Conduct Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) surveillance in the deer herd by managing sample collection sites during the deer hunting season, and sharp-shooting and trapping in urban surveillance areas.
- Respond to wildlife damage and nuisance complaints and monitor wildlife diseases including CWD and West Nile Virus.

## Walworth County Conservation Snapshots

22	Lakes with Access
20	ALIS Agents Supported
55	Hotline Complaints
7	Deer & Turkey Registration Stations



## Fish & Wildlife Stocking Summary

- Eight lakes, three urban ponds and one stream stocked with 31,500 brown trout, 14,880 rainbow trout, 99,362 lake trout, 3,196,505 walleyes, 31,940 smallmouth bass, 7,350 largemouth bass, and 6,644 muskies.
- Stock four properties with up to 1,300 pheasants.
- Supplied 500 day-old pheasant chicks to 2 hunting clubs.

## County Success Stories

- Delavan Lake Rehabilitation Project improved the fisheries, water quality and wildlife habitat on a formerly degraded 2,072-acre lake.
- Private lands habitat management in partnership with federal agencies, Walworth County, Geneva Lakes Conservancy, Lauderdale Lakes Conservancy, Walworth County Land Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, private landowners and individuals has improved wildlife, fisheries, and water quality.
- Turtle Valley Wildlife Area has 14 wetlands with more than 850 acres of open water habitat for waterfowl and an additional 1,450 acres of wet prairie to provide upland nesting cover.
- Kettle Moraine State Forest-Walworth County segment has the largest contiguous interior forest habitat in the area and is important for neotropical forest interior bird species, along with game species like wild turkey, white-tailed deer, and squirrels.

## Statewide challenges to maintaining your hunting and fishing opportunities

- Without a fee increase as proposed by Governor Doyle, the Department of Natural Resources will be forced make numerous cuts in:
  - Fish and wildlife stocking programs: Conservation law enforcement; Public hunting acres; Fish and wildlife field biologists and Customer services
- Keeping upland, shoreline and aquatic habitat intact and functional
- Multiple user conflicts - Increasing pressure on public lands
- Rapid growth – urban sprawl
- Nuisance wildlife and invasion by non-native species
- Disease management

**Want to Learn More?** Go to [dnr.wi.gov/invest](http://dnr.wi.gov/invest)

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